
AP[®] Comparative Government and Politics

Sample Student Responses and Scoring Commentary Set 2

Inside:

Free-Response Question 2

- ☒ **Scoring Guidelines**
- ☒ **Student Samples**
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Question 2: Quantitative Analysis**5 points**

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- (A)** Using the data in the table, identify the country that had the lowest Press Freedom Index score in 2018. **1 point**

Acceptable identifications include:

- China

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- (B)** Using the data in the table, describe a trend in press freedoms in Nigeria. **1 point**

Acceptable descriptions include:

- Nigeria has experienced decreasing press freedom scores since 2013.
- Between 2018 and 2022 there was a sharp decline in freedom scores in Nigeria.

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- (C)** Describe democratization. **1 point**

Acceptable descriptions include:

- Democratization:
 - is a transition from an authoritarian to a democratic regime.
 - results in more competition, fairness, and transparency in elections over time.
 - increases citizen participation in the policy-making process.
 - increases protection of civil rights/civil liberties/rule of law.
 - introduces the equal treatment of citizens to a society.
 - adopts universal suffrage for citizens.
 - results in greater governmental transparency through an open media.

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- (D)** Using the data in the table, draw a conclusion about democratization in Mexico. **1 point**

Acceptable conclusions include:

- The decline of press freedom indicates that the democratization process in Mexico is uneven/stalled/regressing.
- While Mexico has experienced some levels of democratization in areas like competitive elections, state or non-state actors have undermined press freedom.

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- (E)** Explain how Iran's Press Freedom Index score relates to its regime type. **1 point**

Acceptable conclusions include:

- Iran's regime type is authoritarian, and this relates to its low Press Freedom Index score because authoritarian regimes influence or control the media.
- Iran's low Press Freedom Index score is related to its theocratic regime, which restricts media that is critical of religious leadership or doctrine.
- Iran's regime type is authoritarian, and this relates to its low Press Freedom Index score. The supreme leader appoints the head of the ministry that regulates most broadcast media.

Total for question 2 5 points

● **Important:** Completely fill in the circle that corresponds to the question you are answering on this page.

Question 1

Question 2

Question 3

Question 4

Begin your response to each question at the top of a new page. Do not skip lines.

- A. China had the lowest Press Freedom Index score in 2018
- B. From 2013 to 2022, Nigeria experienced net decrease in press freedoms.
- C. Democratization is the transition from an authoritarian regime to a democratic regime. Methods for democratization include transitioning to a multiparty system, free and fair elections, and decrease in violence in order for democratic consolidation
- D. From 2013 to 2022, Mexico experienced a net decrease in press freedoms which points to some unsteadiness in Mexico's democratization as civil liberties, like freedom of press, are not improving in the time period given in the table. Mexico is in the process of democratization as its press freedoms are significantly higher than authoritarian regimes China and Iran but have not completely democratically consolidated as Mexico has been a more dangerous place for journalists ~~and~~ from 2013 to 2022.
- E. Iran's low Press Freedom score relates to its authoritarian regime as authoritarian regimes do not protect civil liberties of the people like freedom of press and almost all media outlets are state owned which means the media is directly tied to the government and will release only what the government wants them to, restricting the people's freedom of speech. Authoritarian regimes restrict media that is anti-establishment or criticizes the government which leads to poor/low press freedoms in Iran.

Page 3

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● **Important:** Completely fill in the circle that corresponds to the question you are answering on this page.

Question 1

Question 2

Question 3

Question 4



Begin your response to each question at the top of a new page. Do not skip lines.

- a) China
- b) The trend in the press freedoms in Nigeria is from 2013 - 2022 it has decreased.
- c) Democratization is ~~going~~ transitioning from a ~~democratic~~ authoritarian state to a democratic state.
- d) ~~The~~ Democratization in Mexico hasn't been that good as there are coercion of Mexican citizens by cartels
- e) Iran's Press Freedom Index score relates to its regime type by Sharia law which both rule and religion goes together.

Page 3

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Important: Completely fill in the circle that corresponds to the question you are answering on this page.

Question 1

Question 2

Question 3

Question 4



Begin your response to each question at the top of a new page. Do not skip lines.

A. Using the data table the country that had the lowest press freedom index score in 2018 is China ~~at~~ with 21.7 in 2018

B. Using the data table the press freedom trend in Nigeria has been decrease steadily but in 2022 has had a significant drop from 62.6 to 46.8.

C. Democratization is when ~~the~~ they increase ~~more democratic~~ more restrictions through increasing tariffs

D. For example through Mexico we can see a decline in their press freedom from 51.1 to 47.6 ~~was could be do~~ they are increasing democratization

E. Iran's press freedom score index score is unsteady going up in down 2013 being 26.6 2018 31.3 and 23.2 for 2022 showing how this relates to the idea that the regime isn't set is unsteady with the idea of protest across as well as the idea that there isn't freedom unless it's behind a close door.

Page 3.

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Question 2

Quantitative Analysis

Note: Student samples are quoted verbatim and may contain spelling and grammatical errors.

Overview

The intent of this question was to assess students' ability to interpret, describe, explain, and draw conclusions from quantitative data on press freedom across the six AP countries presented in a table. The question was also designed to assess students' ability to make connections between trends in press freedom and the concept of democratization. Students were presented with a table displaying numbers indicating the Press Freedom Index levels for the six countries in 2013, 2018, and 2022. Students were expected to correctly identify the country with the lowest level of press freedom in 2018. Students were also expected to correctly describe a trend in press freedoms in Nigeria using the data. Students were then expected to correctly describe the concept of democratization. Then students were asked to draw a conclusion about democratization in Mexico using the data in the table. Finally, students were asked to explain how Iran's Press Freedom Index score relates to its regime type.

Sample: 2A

Score: 5

(A) The response earned 1 point for identifying China as the country with the lowest Press Freedom Index score in 2018.

(B) The response earned 1 point for correctly describing the trend in Nigeria as a “net decrease in press freedoms.”

(C) The response earned 1 point for correctly describing democratization as “the transition from an authoritarian regime to a democratic regime.”

(D) The response earned 1 point for drawing a conclusion about democratization in Mexico by stating, “From 2013 to 2022, Mexico experienced a net decrease in press freedoms which points to some unsteadiness in Mexico's democratization as civil liberties, like freedom of press, are not improving.”

(E) The response earned 1 point for explaining how Iran's Press Freedom Index score relates to its regime type by stating, “Iran's low Press Freedom score relates to its authoritarian regime as authoritarian regimes do not protect civil liberties of the people like freedom of the press ... Authoritarian regimes restrict media that...criticizes the government.”

Sample: 2B

Score: 3

(A) The response earned 1 point for identifying China as the country with the lowest Press Freedom Index score in 2018.

Question 2 (continued)

(B) The response earned 1 point for describing the trend in Nigeria as “The trend in the press freedoms in Nigeria is from 2013–2022 it has decreased.”

(C) The response earned 1 point for correctly describing democratization as “transitioning from a authoritarian state to a democratic state.”

(D) The response did not earn a point for drawing a conclusion about democratization in Mexico because it does not refer to press freedoms or the data in the table.

(E) The response did not earn a point for explaining how Iran’s Press Freedom Index score relates to its regime type because, while it mentions “Sharia law” and “rule and religion,” it does not address the relationship of the Press Freedom Index score to Iran’s regime type.

Sample: 2C

Score: 2

(A) The response earned 1 point for identifying China as the country with the lowest Press Freedom Index score in 2018.

(B) The response earned 1 point for correctly describing the trend in Nigeria by stating “the press freedom trend in nigeria has been decrease steadily but in 2022 has had a significant drop.”

(C) The response did not earn a point for correctly describing democratization. It incorrectly describes democratization as “when they increase more restrictions through increasing tariffs.”

(D) The response did not earn a point for drawing a conclusion about democratization in Mexico because it incorrectly concludes, “a decline in their press freedom” in Mexico indicates “increasing democratization.”

(E) The response did not earn a point for explaining how Iran’s Press Freedom Index score relates to its regime type because it does not identify Iran’s regime type, so it cannot explain how Iran’s regime type is related to its Press Freedom Index score.